

Proposal for initial set of measures to be posted on the Council's website by June, 2008

At its initial launch in June, 2008, the Council's health care quality and cost information website will include, in one centralized, interactive, consumer-friendly format:

Quality Measures

- 1) Hospital quality measures currently available in graphical format on www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov. These measures include process measures (adherence to recognized clinical protocols), patient experience measures, and mortality rates for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgery.
- 2) Hospital quality measures currently available in spreadsheet format on www.mass.gov/healthcareqc. These measures include process measures (adherence to recognized clinical protocols), mortality rates, volume and/or utilization data for common conditions such as heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, hip replacement, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), and maternity services.
- 3) Hospital patient safety measures currently available on www.leapfroggroup.org, including compliance with the National Quality Forum's Endorsed Safe Practices for Better Healthcare.
- 4) Quality measures for large physician group practices currently available on www.mhqp.org, if MHQP makes these measures available to the Council. MHQP primarily reports HEDIS measures related to: patients' experience of care, cancer screening, depression care, diabetes care, asthma care, pediatric care, and women's health.
- 5) If the Council identifies other sources of quality measures for Massachusetts hospitals and physician group practices that are, validated, publicly available, and consistent with the Council's principles on publicly reporting quality measures it will consider adding these measures.

Cost Measures

Cost data calculated from the Council's health claims dataset for a total of 50 inpatient and outpatient procedures.* The Council will select these procedures based on the highest total cost (price x volume). Cost data will include the

* The Communications and Transparency Committee asked Dolores Mitchell and Charlie Baker to develop recommended lists of procedures and prescription drugs for the Council, based on their own data. The Committee agreed that the GIC and HPHC data would be representative of all payers for the purpose of compiling these lists.

median price paid by all health insurance carriers to each facility, as well as the 25th percentile price and the 75th percentile price to indicate the price range.

The Council, with the assistance of its consultants, will review the above listed quality and cost measures to identify those quality and cost measures that are closely aligned.

The Council will display:

- quality and cost measures that are closely aligned on the same page;
- quality measures that do not closely align with cost measures on separate pages; and
- cost measures that do not closely align with quality measures on separate pages.

In situations where either cost or quality information is displayed alone, the measures will be accompanied by clear, concise text that cautions users not to infer quality from cost, or vice-versa.

Future versions

In 2008, the Council will also add an “out-of-pocket cost estimator” that will provide consumers with an estimate of the price they will likely pay out-of-pocket for a given procedure; consumers would have to enter detailed information about their own insurance coverage to obtain this estimate.

Over time, the Council will expand the data available on its website to include additional cost and quality measures calculated from its claims dataset, including measures for broad range of health care facilities and services.

The Council will establish a list of priority procedures and services for which it wishes to identify, adopt and publish additional quality measures. These priority procedures and services will include those procedures for which the Council has published cost information, but for which there are no well-aligned quality measures.